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NWRA welcomes Dr. Mamie Parker to Board of Directors

Washington, DC - The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) is pleased to announce the election of Dr. Mamie A. Parker to its Board of Directors. A recently retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Assistant Director, Dr. Parker spent over 29 years in the Service as a professional fish and wildlife biologist and inspirational leader.

"We are excited to have Dr. Parker join with us," said Jeff Smith, Chairman of NWRA. "Her expertise and enthusiasm are unmatched and will be a great asset to our efforts to promote the National Wildlife Refuge System and conserve America's diverse wildlife heritage."

Over the past four years, Dr. Parker served as FWS Assistant Director of Fisheries and Habitat Conservation with oversight of a \$250 million budget, supporting over 2400 employees and 300 field stations throughout the country. "While I am overwhelmed with the many opportunities that I have to commit my time and resources during my retirement days," said Dr. Parker, "I am most excited about working with the NWRA."

Dr. Parker has extensive experience in environmental impact analysis; surveying, sampling and monitoring; fish culture and health; invasive species and habitat restoration. After twenty years in the field, she was named the Special Assistant to the Director of the FWS. Prior to her position as Assistant Director, she served in the Senior Executive Service as the FWS Regional Director of the 13 northeastern states.

In addition, Dr. Parker has received numerous awards from organizations such as The Wildlife Society and Good Housekeeping Magazine. She was recently inducted into the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame and received the Ira Gabrielson Award which is given by employees to the most outstanding leader in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to protect, enhance and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System, America's premier network of lands and waters set aside to conserve our diverse wildlife heritage.

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